

14. A device as claimed in Claim 12, in which the processor means defines the timing means.

15. A device as claimed in Claim 12, in which the identification particulars are displayed on the display means.

5 16. A device as claimed in Claim 12, which includes a printer for printing a hard-copy of selected data.

17. A device as claimed in Claim 12, in which the input means includes a keypad via which the identification particulars of the vehicle and the parking zone are manually entered.

10 18. A device as claimed in Claim 12, in which the input means includes a reader capable of reading in a wireless fashion a tag device in or on the vehicle, the tag device carrying the said identification particulars of the vehicle.

15 19. A device as claimed in Claim 12, in which the communication means is a wireless communication link.

20. A device as claimed in Claim 12, which includes enabling means for selectively enabling the device.

20 21. A device as claimed in Claim 20, in which the enabling means is defined by processor means and the input means in such a fashion so that upon entry of a correct PIN number the device is enabled.

22. A device as claimed in Claim 12, in which the reference identification particulars are reference identification particulars of stolen vehicles.

23. A system for monitoring and identifying vehicles in a plurality of parking zones, the system including

a remote station at which reference identification particulars of vehicles are stored; and

at least one device for identifying a vehicle parked in one of a plurality of parking zones with which the device is associated, the device including a housing shaped and dimensioned to be hand-held within which is housed:

input means for feeding input identification particulars of a vehicle parked in a parking zone into the device;

communication means for sending the input identification particulars to the remote station for comparison with the reference identification particulars and receiving the result of said comparison;

signal generation means for selectively generating a warning signal in response to said result;

timing means for timing the duration for which the vehicle is parked in the parking zone;

processor means for calculating a monetary amount due for parking for said duration in the parking zone;

display means for displaying the monetary amount due; and

monetary receiving means for receiving the monetary amount due.

24. A system as claimed in Claim 23, in which the communication means is a wireless communication means.

25. A system as claimed in Claim 23, in which the monetary receiving means includes card reading means for reading information stored on a card and feeding it to the processor means for processing payment electronically.

5 26. A system as claimed in Claim 23, in which the input means includes a reader capable of reading a tag device hidden in or on the vehicle in a wireless fashion, the tag device carrying the said identification particulars of the vehicle.

10 27. A system as claimed in Claim 23, which includes a control centre and a plurality of remote stations at remote locations associated with parking zones, each remote station being in communication with the control centre via a telecommunication network to receive reference identification particulars and each device being in wireless communication with an associated remote station.

15 28. A system as claimed in Claim 27, in which the telecommunication network is a cellular telephone network.

29. A system as claimed in Claim 28, in which the reference identification particulars are downloaded by means of SMS messaging.

20 30. A system as claimed in Claim 25, in which the telecommunication network includes the Internet.